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# Letter from the Acting Secretary of the Interior, in relation to leasing or selling a portion of the Allegany Reservation, in the State of New York

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ALLEGANY RESERVATION, NEW YORK.

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LETTER

FROM THE

ACTING SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

IN RELATION TO

*Leasing or selling a portion of the Allegany reservation, in the State of New York.*

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FEBRUARY 4, 1874.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, D. C., February 25, 1873.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a letter from the Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated the 17th instant, inclosing a copy of resolutions passed by the council of the Seneca Nation of Indians, remonstrating against the passage of a bill which, it is alleged, has been introduced in the Senate of the United States, as a substitute for House bill No. 2264, relating to leasing or selling a portion of the Allegany reservation, in the State of New York.

The papers are respectfully furnished for the information of Congress.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. R. COWEN,  
*Acting Secretary.*

Hon. JAMES G. BLAINE,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, D. C., February 17, 1873.*

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith duplicate copies of resolutions passed by the council of the Seneca Nation of Indians, remonstrating against the passage of a bill purporting to have been introduced by Senator Harlan in the Senate, as a substitute to bill No. 2264 of the House of Representatives, relative to leasing or selling a portion of the Allegany reservation, in the State of New York. Also, duplicate copies of letter, dated the 11th instant, from Daniel Sherman, United States agent for the New York Indians, inclosing a copy of resolutions above mentioned to this office.

I respectfully recommend that the copies of the resolutions and letters

of Agent Sherman be transmitted to Congress for the information of that body.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. R. CLUM,  
*Acting Commissioner*

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR NEW YORK INDIANS,  
*Forestville, New York, February 11, 1873*

SIR: I have the honor to inclose a duplicate copy of resolutions passed by the council of the Seneca Nation of Indians, remonstrating against the passage of a bill introduced by Senator Harlan in the Senate, as a substitute to bill No. 2264 of the House of Representatives, relative to leasing or selling portions of Allegany reservation, and referred to in my letter to you, dated 31st ultimo, for your information.

I have sent a duplicate copy of these resolutions to Hon. W. L. Sessions, with request to present same to the House of Representatives, in case bill has not passed.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. SHERMAN, *Agent*.

Hon. W. R. CLUM,

*Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.*

At a council of the Seneca Nation of Indians, residing on the Allegany and Cattaraugus reservations, in the State of New York, held at the council-house on the Allegany reservation, on the 23d day of January, 1873, the following councillors being present, being a full council—

*Of Allegany Reservation.*—Peter Snow, president; Joseph Jemison, John Lampson, William Redeye, Wallace Halftown, Isaac Halftown, Owen Blacksnake, Harrison Halftown, Jackson Cornfield.

*Of Cattaraugus Reservation.*—Samuel Jemison, Noah Two Guns, Moses Lay, William Crouse, William Nephew, Samuel Joe, Andrew Fox, Robert Gordon.

On motion of Councillor Samuel Jemison, seconded by Councillor Robert Gordon—

*Resolved*, That this council, and the people of the Seneca Nation of Indians residing on the Cattaraugus and Allegany reservations, in the State of New York, are unanimous in their opposition to the provisions of the bill introduced by Senator Harlan in the Senate of the United States, as a substitute to bill No. 2264, of the House of Representatives, providing among other things, for the sale of a portion of the Allegany reservation, and to every part of said bill, and do most earnestly and respectfully remonstrate against the passage thereof.

*Resolved*, That the said Seneca Nation of Indians is opposed to the sale of any portion of their reservation, and to any legislation by Congress which may tend to disturb them in their title to said reservation, or any portion thereof, which they hold by virtue of treaty stipulations with the United States.

*Resolved*, That Andrew John and Noah Two Guns, of the Cattaraugus reservation, and Harrison Halftown, of the Allegany reservation, are hereby appointed delegates of the Seneca Nation of Indians, to proceed forthwith to the city of Washington, to represent to our great Father, the President of the United States, and to the honorable Senate and House of Representatives, the wishes of this council and the people of the Seneca Nation, as stated in the foregoing resolutions.

The resolutions were unanimously adopted.

STATE OF NEW YORK,

*Allegany Reservation, ss:*

The undersigned, president and clerk of the Seneca Nation of Indians, do certify that the foregoing is a true copy of resolutions unanimously adopted by the council of said nation, as appears from the minutes of said council, in the book of record thereof.

Witness our hands this 23d day of January, 1873, at the council-house on the Allegany reservation, New York.

PETER SNOW, *President*.

CEPHAS TWO GUNS, *Clerk*.

I certify that I was present at the council of the Seneca Nation of Indians, held on the Allegany reservation, in the State of New York, where the foregoing resolutions were adopted by said council, and same were unanimously adopted.

Dated at Allegany reservation, January 23, 1873.

DANIEL SHERMAN,  
*Agent for the Indians of New York.*